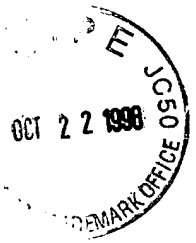


#6



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
)  
ELIYAHOU HARARI, ROBERT D. )  
NORMAN and SANJAY MEHROTRA )  
)  
Serial No.: 09/064,250 )  
)  
Filed: April 22, 1998 )  
)  
For: FLASH EEprom SYSTEM )  
)

Group Art Unit: 2785  
Examiner: P. Chung  
**Received**  
OCT 27 1998  
Group 2700

Requests X w/  
5,627 783  
= 5-6-97

San Francisco, California *re...*  
*noted*

R3  
11/5/98

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on October 19, 1998.

Brenda J. Dolly  
*Brenda J. Dolly* Oct. 19, 1998  
Signature Date

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND  
REQUEST FOR INTERFERENCE**

Sir:

The Office Action dated July 21, 1998, requires restriction of the present continuation application to a group of the original parent application claims. However, a Preliminary Amendment filed as part of the present application canceled all the original application claims and substituted new claims 63-73 therefor. A copy of this Preliminary Amendment is being filed herewith, along with the postcard receipt that shows it to have been filed April 22, 1998. The continuation application Transmittal also referenced the Preliminary Amendment as being filed with the application. Indeed,

*Cross  
mail*

the Filing Receipt indicates the application to have been filed with 13 claims, not the 62 claims of the original parent application that have been acted upon by the Office Action on July 21, 1998.

Therefore, it is requested that claims 63-73 presented by the Preliminary Amendment of April 22, 1998, be examined in the present application, without Applicants being prejudice in any way as a result of the Preliminary Amendment apparently being initially overlooked by the Patent and Trademark Office.

### REQUEST FOR DECLARATION OF AN INTERFERENCE

It is respectfully requested that an interference be declared between the present application and patent no. 5,627,783 of Miyauchi (hereinafter referenced as the "'783 Patent"). Claim 63 of the present application is a substantial copy of the '783 Patent claim 1, differing only by the omission of the term "logical" that appears in the last paragraph of the '783 Patent claim 1 at two locations. This term was omitted because its meaning in the context of the '783 Patent is not clear. However, the term is included in dependent claim 65 of the present application. Claim 65, when dependent upon claim 63, thus exactly corresponds to claim 1 of the '783 Patent.

Claim 63 of the present application is suggested as the count of the interference, as follows:

#### Count 1

63. A semiconductor disk device, comprising:  
a non-volatile, electronically programmable and erasable flash memory, the flash memory being erasable by blocks,  
interface means for exchanging data and addresses with an external system,  
flash control buffer means for performing data exchange between the flash memory and the interface means, and  
access means for converting a sector address received from the external system into a block number and for accessing the flash memory according to the block number.

35 U.S.C. 135(b)

Claim 63 of the present application was added by the Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently with the present application, namely on April 22, 1998. This is less than one year after the issuance of the '783 Patent on May 6, 1997.

Effective Filing Date

As specified in the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" section added by the Preliminary Amendment, the present application is entitled to an effective filing date of April 13, 1989. The '783 Patent, on the other hand, claims January 31, 1995, as the earliest filing date to which it could be entitled. This is the filing date of a Japanese priority application.

Therefore, it is requested that the interference be declared with the Applicants of the present application designated as the senior party.

Support for the Proposed Count 1 in the Present Application

COUNT 1

PRESENT APPLICATION

63. A semiconductor disk device,  
comprising:

P. 6, Ins. 18-30.

a non-volatile, electronically  
programmable and erasable flash memory, the  
flash memory being erasable by blocks,

P. 6, Ins. 18-30.

P. 9, Ins. 2-9.

interface means for exchanging data and  
addresses with an external system,

Controller 31 Figs. 1B, 6 & 7.

flash control buffer means for performing data exchange between the flash memory and the interface means, and

Fig. 1B, interface 40; Fig. 3A, interface 227; Figs. 6 & 7, receiver 313, FIFO 519 and FIFO 601; Fig. 8, cache 705.

access means for converting a sector address received from the external system into a block number and for accessing the flash memory according to the block number.

Fig. 1B, controller 31 and interface 40; Figs. 2 & 3A, p. 9, ln. 10 through p. 11, ln. 6; Figs. 6 & 7, p. 17, ln. 25 through p. 24, ln. 30.

#### Information Disclosure Statement

A comprehensive Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith.

#### Conclusion

A prompt declaration of the requested interference is respectfully requested. In the meantime, however, if the Examiner has any questions about this request, application or disclosure statements, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney is invited.

Dated: October 19, 1998

Respectfully submitted,



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Atty. Docket: HARI.006USM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

ELIYAHOU HARARI, ROBERT D.  
NORMAN and SANJAY MEHROTRA

Serial No.: UNASSIGNED

Filed: HEREWITH

For: FLASH EEprom SYSTEM



San Francisco, California

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above-identified new continuation patent application being filed herewith, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

--Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This is a continuation of patent application Serial No. 08/931,133, filed September 16, 1997, which is a continuation of 08/249,049, filed May 25, 1994, now patent no. 5,671,229, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 07/963,837, filed October 20, 1992, now abandoned, which in turn is a division of patent application serial no. 07/337,566, filed April 13, 1989, now abandoned.-

Page 11, line 26, change "Harari" to --Harari, now patent no. 5,095,344,--.

Page 11, lines 28 and 29, strike "filed on the same day as the present application," and substitute the following therefore: --Serial No. 07/337,579, filed April 13, 1989, now abandoned,--.

Page 22, line 14, insert after "204,175" --now patent no. 5,095,344,--.

**COPY**